'Tellico Dam: 'Too High a Price'

Your editorial on the Tellico Dam ripoff (Oct. 1), "Too High a Price," was a bull's-eye. Talk about political greed at the expense of the long-suffering citizenry! We have to sit by helplessly and watch our $36 million being poured into the useless concrete of this useless dam.

After every official panel and body came to the extraordinary conclusion that the dam not only would lose money but also would destroy 38,000 acres of valuable farmland our "leaders" bowed to the almighty pork barrel and destroyed the Little Tennessee River. Let's not even mention the laughable, doomed snail darter.

Any voter worth his salt will automatically narrow his 1980 presidential choices by eliminating: (1) Sen. Howard Baker (R-Tenn.), who pushed the dam's completion even after it had been defeated several times in Congress, and (2) Jimmy Carter whose brave opposition to pork barrel water projects in the past crumbled under the pressure of reelection butterflies.

Amazing how we madly rush to spend our money to befoul our own nest. When will we learn to say "No" to the powerful agencies and utilities who would drown Glen Canyon, strip-mine the West, clear-cut the redwoods, Mickey-Mouse Mineral King, nucleate the San Andreas Fault? Next time: "No!"

SANFORD WOHLGEMUTH
Reseda

2028.009.0327